**Key Speeches – Pre-WWII, WWII, the Cold War**

**1. President Franklin D. Roosevelt - Chicago - October 5, 1937 - "Quarantine" Speech - excerpt**

…How happy we are that the circumstances of the moment permit us to put our money into bridges and boulevards, dams and reforestation, the conservation of our soil and many other kinds of useful works rather than into huge standing armies and vast supplies of implements of war.  
  
It seems to be unfortunately true that the epidemic of world lawlessness is spreading. When an epidemic of physical disease starts to spread, the community approves and joins in a quarantine of the patients in order to protect the health of the community against the spread of the disease.  
  
It is my determination to pursue a policy of peace. It is my determination to adopt every practicable measure to avoid involvement in war…War is a contagion, whether it be declared or undeclared.  It can engulf states and peoples remote from the original scene of hostilities. We are determined to keep out of war, yet we cannot insure ourselves against the disastrous effects of war and the dangers of involvement. We are adopting such measures as will minimize our risk of involvement, but we cannot have complete protection in a world of disorder in which confidence and security have broken down…

America hates war. America hopes for peace. Therefore, America actively engages in the search for peace.

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**2. President Franklin D. Roosevelt – December 9, 1941 – radio address to the American people – excerpt**

…The course that Japan has followed for the past 10 years in Asia has paralleled the course of Hitler and Mussolini in Europe and Africa. Today, it has become far more than a parallel. It is collaboration so well calculated that all the continents of the world, and all the oceans, are now considered by the Axis strategists as one gigantic battlefield.

* In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria —without warning.
* In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia—without warning.
* In 1938, Hitler occupied Austria—without warning.
* In 1939, Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia—without warning.
* Later in 1939, Hitler invaded Poland—without warning.
* In 1940, Hitler invaded Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg—without warning.
* In 1940, Italy attacked France and later Greece—without warning.
* In 1941, the Axis Powers attacked Yugoslavia and Greece and they dominated the Balkans—without warning.
* In 1941, Hitler invaded Russia—without warning.
* And now Japan has attacked Malaya and Thailand—and the United States—without warning.

It is all of one pattern. We are now in this war. We are all in it—all the way. Every single man, woman, and child is a partner in the most tremendous undertaking of our American history. We expect to eliminate the danger from Japan, but it would serve us ill if we accomplished that and found that the rest of the world was dominated by Hitler and Mussolini. We are going to win the war, and we are going to win the peace that follows.

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**3. President Harry S. Truman – March 12, 1947 – Truman Doctrine speech to Congress – excerpt**

At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one. One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, and guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression. The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way. I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes.

The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. They spread and grow in the evil soil of poverty and strife. They reach their full growth when the hope of a people for a better life has died. We must keep that hope alive.

The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world. And we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation. Great responsibilities have been placed upon us by the swift movement of events.

I am confident that the Congress will face these responsibilities squarely.